
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Elections Department:

Jeanette Heinbockel, Director
State Capitol, Room 026
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-5070
www.sosweb.state.ar.us

If the Arkansas Elections Department is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Arkansas?

If you are a resident of Arkansas, you cannot vote in Arkansas while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Arkansas, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In Arkansas, if you have lost your right to vote as a result of a felony conviction, your right to vote is automatically restored once you have fully discharged your sentence, including any period of probation or parole. Your right to vote is also automatically restored if you are granted

a pardon. Once your right to vote is restored, all you need to do is register.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you are a resident of Arkansas, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

These rules apply for Arkansas voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Arkansas's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in Arkansas, you must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age. You must also be an Arkansas resident and must not claim the right to vote in any other county or state.

When do I need to register to vote?

Registration is available year-round in Arkansas. However, in order to be eligible to vote in a particular election, you must apply to register at least 30 days before that election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Arkansas, including

- County clerk's office
- Libraries
- Colleges
- City offices
- Many other public buildings

Registration is also available at the following locations when applying for services:

- Driver's license facilities
- Department of Public Aid offices
- Department of Public Health offices
- Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities offices
- Department of Rehabilitation offices

You can also download a registration application from the following website:

www.sosweb.state.ar.us/elect.html